

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 10, 2005. Claims 1 to 23 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Applicants and their undersigned attorney thank the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment afforded during a personal interview conducted on November 7, 2005. The following is the Applicants' Statement of the Substance of the Interview.

During the interview, it was explained that the invention concerns the appending of meta data to managed data so as to facilitate search of the managed data. According to the invention, there is a display of a group of candidates of meta data based on a user's selection of a type of content of the managed data, each group of candidates being prepared in advance in correspondence with each type of content. A user's selection of the meta data is accepted, for appending to the selected managed data. The selected meta data is appended to the selected managed data by saving an association between the selected meta data and the selected managed data.

For its part, Cazemier is directed primarily to data search and retrieval based on a query of meta data, and not directed primarily to entry of the meta data by which search and retrieval can be effected. Cazemier mentions that a user can modify the meta data. However, even though a user can modify Cazemier's meta data, there is nothing in

Cazemier that describes that such modification occurs by a display of a group of candidates of meta data based on a user's selection of type of content of the managed data, wherein each group of candidates is prepared in advance in correspondence to each type of content, together with the acceptance of a user's selection of meta data for appending to the selected managed data.

At the interview, the Examiner requested claim amendments so as to emphasize the distinction between three elements in the claims, and so as to emphasize the relationship amongst them: the managed data, the type of content of the managed data, and the appended meta data. The Examiner made several suggestions of acceptable claim language, and those suggestions are acknowledged with appreciation. The language agreed to at the interview has now been incorporated into all the claims.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that the above amendments would overcome the objection entered at page 2 of the Office Action, and also apparently would overcome the § 102(e) rejection entered over Cazemier. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of those objections and rejections, and an action on the merits of the amended claims, are all respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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